

TROPICAL CYCLONE 02B

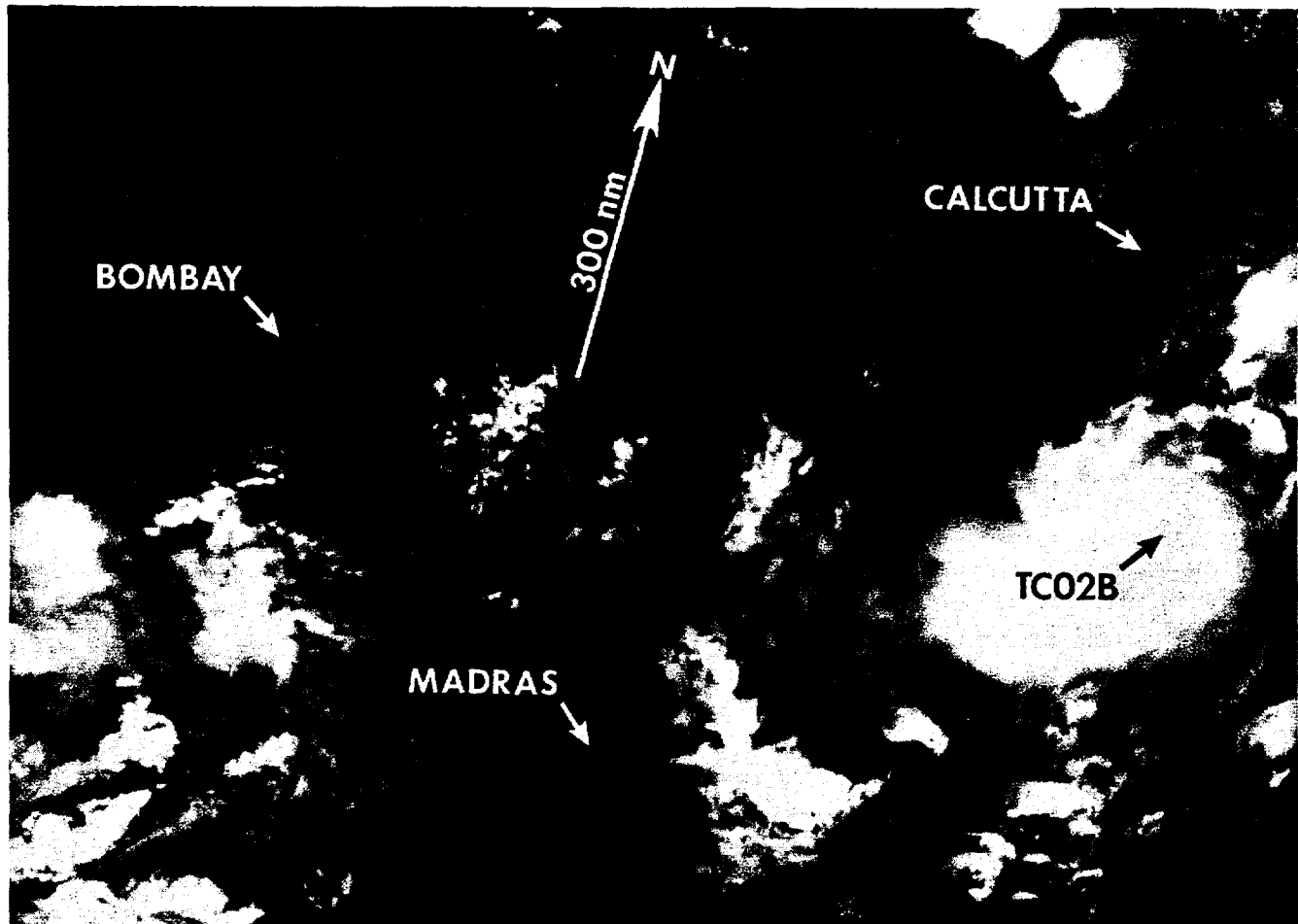


Figure 3-02B-1. Tropical Cyclone 02B was the second significant tropical cyclone to form in the Bay of Bengal. It was detected on satellite imagery as an area of organizing convection about 220 nm (407 km) southwest of Rangoon, Burma and was first mentioned as a new suspect area on the 301800Z May Significant Tropical Weather Advisory (ABIO PGTW). The development of strong central convection prompted a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert on June 1st at 0600Z. The first tropical cyclone warning followed a day later at 020600Z as a result of continued development. The forecast track toward the northwest, which agreed closely with the Half Persistence and Climatology (HPAC) guidance, changed during the subsequent 24-hours, as mid-level ridging caused Tropical Cyclone 02B to assume a recurvature track toward the northeast (see above imagery). The One-Way Interactive Tropical Cyclone Model (OTCM), correctly predicted this recurvature toward the northeast; however, the guidance was discounted due to the previous poor performance of the model in this region. At 040600Z, Tropical Cyclone 02B reached its maximum intensity of 55 kt (28 m/sec) and developed a ragged eye. This intensity was maintained until the system made landfall over Bangladesh at 041200Z. Rapid dissipation followed. No reports of damage or loss of life were received (030421Z June DMSP visual imagery).